

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LAGOS 05610 041402Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 INR-10 MCE-00 ABF-01 OMB-01

TRSE-00 AID-05 ACDA-12 EB-08 SS-15 /068 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8284

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 5610

SECDEF FOR //ASD/ISA//

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, NI

SUBJECT: NIGERIAN REQUEST FOR P&B DATA

REF: (A) STATE 099497, (B) USDAO LAGOS 133 DTG 061520Z APR 78,

(C) 77STATE 207984

1. SUMMARY: THE NIGERIAN ARMY HAS REQUESTED P&B DATA FOR 155-MM SELF-PROPELLED HOWITZED AND 8-INCH SELF-PROPELLED HOWITZED. THIS CABLE PROVIDES INFORMATION REQUIRED IN REF C. PLEASE PROVIDE REPLY ASAP. END SUMMARY.

2. THE NIGERIAN ARMY (NA) HAS REQUESTED P&B DATA FOR THE FOLLOWING WEAPONS SYSTEMS:

155-MM SELF-PROPELLED HOB TZER (M109A1)

8-INCH SELF-PROPELLED HOWITZED (M110E2)

3. NA IS MOUNTING A CAMPAIGN TO CONVINCE THE FEDERAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT (FMG) TO BUY THESE WEAPONS AND DESIRES P&B DATA TO COMPLETE ITS PROPOSALS WITHIN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. NA IS AWARE OF USG POLICY REGARDING THE SALE OF MAJOR WEAPONS SYSTEMS.

4. FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PROVIDED TO QUESTIONS IN REF C.
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PARA 5E:

A. THE EQUIPMENT WOULD BE USED BY NA TO MODERNIZE ITS ARTILLERY CORPS. WE DO NOT FORESEE THIS EQUIPMENT BEING USED OUTSIDE NIGERIA. IN UNLIKELY EVENT THAT NIGERIA DECIDED TO PROVIDE ITS ARMED FORCES TO SUPPORT SOUTHERN AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, THEY MIGHT POSSIBLY BE USED IN THAT AREA.

B. THE ACQUISITION OF THESE HOWITZERS WOULD ENHANCE THE

OVERALL COMBAT CAPABILITY OF THE NA. WE DO NOT FEEL THAT THIS ACQUISITION WOULD HAVE AN APPRECIABLE EFFECT ON NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES OR ENCOURAGE A REGIONAL ARMS RACE. NIGERIA ALREADY HAS THE MOST POWERFUL ARMED FORCE IN THE AREA. IT ACTS AS A STABILIZING FORCE IN THE AREA AND ADDES NOT HAVE ANY DESIGNS ON THE TERRITORY OF ITS NEIGHBORS.

C. THE NA IS UNLIKELY TO NEED OFFICIAL OR PRIVATE AMERICANS IN NIGERIA TO SUPPORT THE SALE. THE NA SHOULD HAVE LITTLE DIFFICULTY IN MASTERING THE OPERATIKN OF THE EQUIPMENT, BY INCREASING ITS COUNTRY-FUNDED TRAINING QUOTA AT FORT SILL WE BELIEVE THAT NIGERIA WOULD BE ABLE TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN THE EQUIPMENT WITMLIT EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE.

D. WE ANTICIPATE THAT THIS WOULD BE A CASH SALE.

E. THIS SALE WOULD PROBABLY HAVE NO SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON THE NIGERIAN ECONOMY. THE FMG IS CURRENTLY REVIEWING ITS ECONOMIC PRIORITIES, BUT CAN AFFORD MOST OF ITS LONG RANGE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS INCLUDING ARMY MODERNIZATION.

F. THIS ALE WOULD INTRODUCE A NEW WEAPONS SYSTEM INTO THE REGION. SINCE NIGERIA IS ALREADY THE SUPERIOR MILITARY FORCE IN THE AREA AND ACTS AS A STABILIZING INFLUENCE, THE SALE IS UNLILEY TO ENCOURAGE AN ARMS RACE.

G. ALTHOUGH UNDER A MILITARY GOVER/3,5, NIGERIA HAS HAD A FARILY GOOD HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD. THERE IS NO POLICY OR HISTORY OF CONSISTENT VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS. THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO A RETURN TO A DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED CIVILIAN GOVERNMENTIN OCTOBER 1979. THE SALE OF THIS EQUIPMENT

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WOULD NOT AFFECT THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN NIGERIA. THE EMBASSY DOES NOT HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO MONITOR THE USE OF THE EQUIPMENT.

H. WE BELIEVE THE USG SHOULD SUPPORT THIS SALE IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN OUR GROWING TIES WITH NIGERIA. WE SHOULD NOTE THAT THE FMG HAS ONLY REQUESTED P&B DATA AT THIS TIME AND IN THE END MAY NOT SUBMIT A REQUEST TO PURCHASE THE EQUIPMENT, DEPENDING ON INTERNAL DISCUSSIONS WITHNG THE GOVERNMENT.

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NNN

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